

Minutes of the 42nd meeting of the UK Bridges Board held at the Chartered Institution of Highways & Transportation on 3 October 2013

Mike Winter	ADEPT/ Dorset County Council (Chairman)
Ian Bucknall	Network Rail
Barry Colford	Large Bridges Rep/Forth Road Bridge
Kevin Dentith	ADEPT/Devon County Council
Richard Fish	Bridge Owners Forum
Rod Howe	Canal and Rivers Trust
Liz Kirkham	ADEPT
Neil Loudon	Highways Agency
Willie Kerr	Northern Ireland Roads Service
Stuart Molyneux	Metropolitan Councils
Stephen Pottle	Transport for London (Vice Chairman)
Justin Ward	CIHT (Secretariat)

UK Roads Liaison Group – items for decision or to note

- ***Request to DfT for funding preparation of Guidance on Vehicle Restraint Systems and Traffic Management measures at bridge sites on local roads.***
- ***Concerns over delay to Bridge Inspector Sector Scheme***
- ***Boundary issue – to note the response***

1. Introduction

Mike Winter welcomed everyone to the meeting. Andrew Hugill, the new Director of Policy and Technical Affairs at CIHT introduced himself to the Board members.

Apologies were recorded for: Neil Garton Jones, Satbir Gil, Steve Berry, Paul Hersey, Wayne Hindshaw, David McKenzie, Jason Hibbert, Graham Bessant, Graham Cole and Paul Williams. Mike said that Paul Williams would no longer fulfil the role of representing LoBEG due to a change in his position at Brent Council. The Board thanked Paul for his contribution and particularly his work on asset management.

2. Minutes of last meeting

The minutes were recorded as accurate subject to two minor changes: 1) spelling of Kevin's surname. Secondly, although recorded accurately the consultant working for the Highways Agency was not CH2M but Parsons Brinckerhoff. Corrected version here:

<http://www.ukroadsliasongroup.org/en/utilities/document-summary.cfm?docid=ECC1D60E-B88B-4FA4-B52280A5618E8853>

Matters arising

All the actions had been completed or picked up on the agenda. The only outstanding issue was:

- Bridge strike protocol (post meeting note, this has been picked up with Keith Ross following the meeting and a further consultation is taking place prior to finalising the document).

The Board agreed that getting the protocol out promptly would be very helpful.

Action: Ian Bucknall to speak to Keith Ross about removing the liability/recharge issue from the Bridge Strike Protocol as requested from the UK Roads Liaison Group minutes

- Confirmation from Wayne Hindshaw that he had contacted Gerry Hayter
- Mike Winter's action to speak with Chris Chiverall

3. Building Information Modelling (BIM)

Stephen Pottle gave a very interesting presentation on BIM. The Board discussed their approach to BIM and said that advice to bridge managers on how to get up and running with BIM alongside emphasising that BIM is not just about the construction and design phase would be helpful.

4. UKRLG

The Board in particular noted the discussion on collaboration in the research field and on Network Rail. Neil Loudon highlighted the publication of "Action for Roads" and the proposals highlighted in the reform of the Highways Agency.

5. ADEPT & NR Liaison

Ian Bucknall reported good progress from the liaison meeting. Mike Winter highlighted the issue of an update on mitigation works to potential vehicle incursion sites and the Board agreed that this needed attention. It was understood that Steve Berry had been in discussion with Network Rail and the ORR and it was hoped that he would be able to report to the next UKBB meeting.

Action: Stephen Pottle and Ian Bucknall to look at liaison between NR and LoBEG

6. Bridge strikes – update on protocol

See also Matters Arising.

Action: Ian Bucknall to update on the publication of the protocol and what was still required to do

7. Level 'O' Bridge Assessment Programme

Mike Winter read out a not from David Mackenzie:

At the most recent liaison meeting between Network Rail (Scotland) and the SCOTS Bridges Group, NR explained the background to "Level 0" assessments which are being undertaken.

"Level 0" assessment is being applied (by prioritisation) to road-over-rail, as well as track-carrying bridges. Roughly 1000 bridges are having to be looked at, in a period of one year. The focus on "Level 0" assessments has contributed to slow progress on outstanding BG3 assessments.

The "Level 0" assessment process uses an evaluation tool, which has been developed to look at main structural members. The tool is conservative, and is the least sophisticated method, providing a "first pass" assessment outcome.

Assessment can move to levels 1, 2 or 3 if necessary (eg. yield line analysis, finite elements etc).

The tool considers collapse mode, rather than minor overstress of members, and takes full account of corrosion losses in metal structures.

Very generally, masonry arches are likely to achieve a “pass”, whereas this is less likely for metal structures.

Action: Justin Ward to send on note from David MacKenzie [completed 29 October 2013]

8. ADEPT and Canal & Rivers Trust Liaison

Rod Howe said that parapet impact damage was an issue.

9. LHA Vehicle Restraint Systems

The Board discussed a paper written by Graham Cole that recommended that the ADEPT National Bridges Group works with the DfT to engage a consultant to prepare a guidance document on the provision of vehicle restraint systems at bridge sites on local roads. The document would also provide guidance on minor traffic management measures to minimise the risk of parapet impacts in response to the RAIB report into the Oxshott vehicle incursion incident and address recommendations for action by DfT. It was proposed that DfT and ADEPT share the cost of this work.

Action: Mike Winter to seek confirmation that ADEPT is still willing to fund this work in light of recent reductions in its research budget and Steve Berry to confirm whether DfT is willing to fund its share.

The demarcation of responsibilities for inspecting parapet warning signs etc between Bridge and Highway Inspectors which arose following the Oxshott Vehicle Incursion still had to be resolved. The UKBB proposals for revisions to the Highway Structures and Well Maintained Highways Codes of Practice had been set out in a paper by Graham Cole and considered by the Roads Board.

Action: Mike Winter to work through the issue with Andrew Murray on duties for inspections in Well-maintained Highways and Management of Highway Structures

10. Strategic Bridge Risk

Mike Winter highlighted the item on strategic bridge risk saying that he had hoped that a generic risk register of causes of bridge closure or severe restriction could be prepared with signposting to guidance on risk mitigation measures. The work had been scoped by Mike Winter and Graham Cole and was seen as an ideal way to provide guidance to bridge practitioners and scope out subsequent work to develop a chapter on Risk and Resilience for the planned update to the Code of Practice. The proposal had been passed to Steve Berry but no response had been received.

Action: Mike Winter to ask Steve Berry whether the DfT was able to fund a small commission to undertake the work on strategic bridge risk.

11. Bridge Inspector Training

Mike Winter read out an update on the bridge inspector training from Steve Berry which stated:

We have now agreed a procurement route with the DfT's Procurement Team. The approach will be to publish a PIN, then assuming there is market interest, an open OJEU procurement. As I think we have previously mentioned the complicating factor is the requirement to include Ireland in the procurement and this will result in a more lengthy process.

Having made some changes we in DfT are generally happy with the specification. As you may know currently there is a Government freeze on consultancy spend and due to this we have had to go through a series of internal approvals to allow us to procure. These processes includes Ministerial approval from both DfT and Cabinet Office. Once we have received these clearances (can take about a month) then we will put this out to tender, so I am confident that we are now on track, subject to Ministerial approval, to go out to tender by end of this year if not before.

I recognise that members of the Bridges Board are anxious to see this project started and the above highlights the various challenges we, as a Department, have to overcome to get this to a stage where we can go to tender. If any member organisations believe they can do this any quicker, then please let us know and we would be quite happy for them to take the lead.

Richard Fish highlighted that it was now two years since a letter was published from John Dowie announcing the sector scheme.

12. Structures Toolkit

Mike Winter welcomed the update note on the structures toolkit that stated:

We do not currently have a contract with an organisation to provide software accreditation but this requirement will feature as part of a new Codes of Practice Support Contract which is currently going through the our internal approval process before it is put out to competition in the next couple of months.

Mike also confirmed that Lila Tachtsi would confirm with HAMFIG if there was scope to use to the data collected by local authorities for their Whole of Government Account (WGA) submissions to prepare an annual national highway bridge condition report.

13. Local Highway Authorities and Highways Agency – Boundary Issues

The Board thanked Liz Kirkham for coordinating the response to the consultation.

Action: UKBB members to comment on the Boundary issue response

Action: Justin Ward to contact the consultant working on the Boundary issue suggesting that the work that has already been undertaken in Scotland is considered

Action: Justin Ward to send a copy to UKRLG members of the response

Action: Justin Ward to send a copy of the response to Andrew Lewis from the Highways Agency

14. Bridge Owners' Forum

There was a discussion on research and Richard Fish tabled a list of potential projects for further prioritisation by Board members prior to submission to UKRLG. The emphasis was on practitioner guidance where there were deemed to be significant gaps. The list assumed that the proposed work on the Guidance in the Identification, Inspection, Management and Maintenance of Concealed Components would be proceeding as a CIRIA project.

Action: Comments on the priority order of the potential projects to be passed to Justin Ward.

15. Code of Practice Updates

There were no updates to the Code to approve.

16. Revision of Highway Structures Code of Practice

Mike Winter read out an update from Steve Berry on the issue:

This project received DfT and Cabinet Office approval to procure last week and is in the process of being put out to mini-competition via the DfT research and consultancy framework. This is expected to be an 18-month contract and we will be in a position to update the Group on engagement once an appointment has been made.

17. Marine Management Organisation (MMO)

Kevin Dentith asked for views on working with the MMO.

Action: Ian Bucknall to feedback views on Network Rail's relationship with the MMO

Action: Neil Loudon to feedback views on the Highway's Agency relationship with the MMO

18. Temporary Works Forum

Stephen Pottle highlighted this.

Action: Justin Ward to invite John Carpenter to the next meeting

19. UK Bridges Board Business Plan

The Board noted no changes to the current online plan.

20. Conferences and Courses

Mike Winter highlighted that the Surveyor Bridges Conference was going to be on March 26 2014.

21. Any other business

Neil Loudon confirmed that Dave Parker is the lead within the Highways Agency on the transition of BRRB into the Highways Agency

Rod Howe highlighted that Kevin Dentith would be pleased to take on the role of ADEPT representative in liaison with the Canal & Rivers Trust

Action: Mike Winter to ask ADEPT National Bridges Group to confirm its support of Kevin Dentith as its representative for liaison with the Canal & Rivers Trust

22. Date of next meeting

To be confirmed